

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00959 092138Z
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 /018 W
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R 092044Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0665
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC
U.S. CUSTOMS

UNCLAS PANAMA 0959

DEA FOR TRI. CUSTOMS FOR INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS. STATE FOR
S/NM.

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, PN
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITIES

REF: STATE 284346

1. THIS CABLE RESPONDS, AND IS KEYED, TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL
PARAGRAPH 5 ON PANAMA'S NARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITIES.
 - A. THEY DO NOT.
 - B. NARCOTICS TRAINING IS PROVIDED IN REGULAR POLICE TRAINING
PROGRAMS. THE NARCOTICS TRAINING FORMS PART OF THE BASIC POLICE
COURSE, AND IS PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH IDENTIFICATION OF DRUGS
AND INFORMATION. THIS TRAINING TAKES PLACE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL
ONLY AS PANAMA HAS A UNIFIED NATIONAL POLICE FORCE.
 - C. PANAMA HAS A POLICE ACADEMY WHICH GRADUATES STUDENTS AFTER
AN 8 WEEK COURSE.
 - D. THE SCHOOL HAS TWO OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE PROGRAM. MOST
OF THE INSTRUCTORS ARE BROUGHT FROM THE FIELD FOR A PARTICULAR
COURSE AND HAVE NO KNOWN TRAINING AS INSTRUCTORS. THIS INCLUDES
THE NARCOTICS TRAINING PROGRAM.
 - E. ONE TWO WEEK SESSION PROVIDED BY DEA IN 1974 AND 1975 AND
ONE OF THE SAME LENGTH BY CUSTOMS IN 1975.

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- F. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT THESE TRAINING SEMINARS HAVE MADE A
SMALL, BUT USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO ASSISTING PANAMA'S DRUG CONTROL
PROGRAM. REVIEW OF LOCAL ARRESTS AND DEIZURES SHOW A SLIGHT
INCREASE DURING THE PAST YEAR IN MARIJUANA AND COCAINE ARRESTS.
 - G. YES.
 - H. SINCE THE PRESENT INSTRUCTORS COME FROM THE DENI NARCOTICS
UNIT THE DIRECT APPROACH WOULD BE TO HAVE AN INSTRUCTOR DEVELOP-

MENT TRAINING COURSE. HOWEVER, IN LONG-RANGE PLANNING, NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FOR INVESTIGATORS IN NARCOTIC UNITS IS DESIRABLE. THIS COULD BE LOOKED INTO AND WE BELIEVE THE GOP WOULD BE AMENABLE TO IT. HOWEVER, THE USG SHOULD BE PREPARED TO FUND THE TRAINING PROGRAM UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE GOP COULD OR WOULD PICK UP THE OPERATING COSTS.

I. NOT FEASIBLE.

JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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